

PESTILENCE AND FAMINE IN CHINA

Millions of People, on Verge of Starvation, Gather in Camps Around Cities.

ARE ATTACKED BY DISEASE

Conditions Growing Rapidly Worse, and Need for Assistance Has Become Urgent.

Reports which have been coming in for the past two months of the famine in North China, show a disaster of appalling magnitude. The area over which the famine is prevalent covers 40,000 square miles, and has a population of 25,000,000. Throughout this area the crops have been deluged by floods, and millions of people are now on the verge of starvation. Thousands of dwellings have been destroyed and the inmates are without homes. An urgent appeal has been made for assistance in the United States, and effort is being made along many lines to effect some relief of the situation, the terrible extent of which can hardly be comprehended in this time of prosperity and plenty.

On December 23 President Roosevelt issued a special proclamation calling the attention of the people of this country to the conditions in China, saying: "And our abounding prosperity assuredly we should do our part to aid the unfortunate and relieve this distress among the people of China, to whom we have been allied for so many years in friendship and kindness."

Work of Relief.
The National Red Cross Association has offered what relief it can, contributions being received by its treasurer, Mr. Charles Hullum Keop, of the U. S. Treasury Department, Washington, but the situation is still largely untouched. The various mission boards operating in China are taxing their resources to the limit to render what assistance they can, and missionaries are giving their time and labor to the administration of the work, the effort being now, not to satisfy hunger but to save life.

The situation will not be relieved by natural means until the end of May, when the spring grain becomes ripe, and unless the most vigorous efforts are made thousands who are now starving, subsisting on leaves and roots, will have perished.

The Shanghai Missionary Association, at its meeting in January, at which there were 274 members, representing 19 bodies, called a most urgent appeal to the churches and to the people of America, saying that a million and a quarter starving refugees had already been checked to the districts around Shanghai; that three million people were absolutely destitute, and that many millions were affected by the famine. At that time many deaths had been reported, and the five months' famine was only begun. By this time a large number of families will have used up their little supplies and millions more are being added to those who are absolutely destitute. The mission boards concur in saying that this is the opportunity of a century to impress China.

A letter recently received from the Rev. J. W. Bradley, a missionary of the

Southern Presbyterian Church at Su-chien, China, says:

"The people are in a bad way. Everybody says that the famine is much worse than in 1877, and there is great need of funds. The people now are living on yellow leaves and potato leaves where they can be found. Wheat, beans, potatoes, peanuts, barley, buckwheat, everything has been destroyed by floods, and there are many people living on almost nothing now. Many are sick from lack of food and clothing. Thousands went down south, but had to come back, as there has been a very small rice crop. Hundreds died on the road. This is only December—what will be the condition of these miserable people by next April? Can you get your people to help us any? If so, send the relief at once."

Pestilence and Famine.

The Rev. L. L. Moore, who has been for the past six years in China, tells how the relief funds are being distributed. Mr. Moore says:

"It may interest your readers to know something of the methods used in famine relief in China. First, a tour of inspection is made in the district and a list taken of those most in need of aid. To prevent trouble and delay the missionary goes through the country escorted by eight or ten mounted Chinese soldiers. A deputy sheriff goes along who knows the inhabitants in his district; he must prevent people registering a second time under assumed names. This deputy sheriff forfeits his head by bad conduct, and as he is cured and abused from morning till night by would-be impostors, he has a difficult and thankless task."

"Those seriously ill and the dying are passed by as 'hopeless,' and no provision whatever is made for them. The relief column passes many corpses in a day, and pestilence and famine fever take off many more even while the golden grain is ripening for the harvest. After making out the list, checks are issued, the stubs being kept for reference. The checks, presented at the granary twice a month, draw a certain amount of grain. Where the famine is extensive money instead of grain is given at stated intervals. Arrangements are then made at the granary shops for a fixed price on grain. We can give relief in this way, but it is to be feared that the local measure and correct price are given."

"It would be a mistake to suppose that your aid will relieve hunger; it is simply to prevent death. Only sufficient can be given to relieve the immediate pain of hunger. Thousands will now know 'until wheat harvest' what it is to be free from hunger. In the two local famines I witnessed in 1897 and 1899, half a cent a day per man was the amount given; probably it will require one cent per day this year, owing to the extent of the famine, and the high price of grain. When you shall have eaten your next dinner lay aside the price of it and that amount will feed a starving Chinese for one month, and to probably your appetite is poorer than usual to-day! It will be necessary to continue relief measures until the end of May—when harvest begins."

Smallpox Among Refugees.

A number of letters received at the offices of the Southern Baptist Board of Foreign Missions abundantly confirm the reports of famine and suffering, and with each new bulletin the area and extent of the disaster grows. At Chinkiang, on the Grand Canal, where nearly half a million refugees were camped around the city, smallpox has broken out among the refugees, and the medical missionaries throughout that area have been called upon to help in stamping out the disease. Fevers are also beginning to break out in these camps, partly as a result of the lack of nutrition, and many are dying of disease.

The Times-Dispatch will undertake to acknowledge and forward all contributions that are sent to its office. The funds will be distributed direct to the sufferers. The salaries, traveling expenses, cost of sending the money, etc., is otherwise provided for.

MEETINGS FOR WEEK.

What the City Fathers Have Before Them.

As far as the schedule now arranged goes to show, the city fathers will not have very much to do this week. However, nobody knows what a day may bring forth, and special meetings of committees and subcommittees may be called before the sun goes down to-morrow. At present the following meetings are the only ones on the list: Monday—Committee on Street Cleaning, in City Hall, at 8 P. M.; Committee on Poor, at City Almshouse, at 8 P. M.; Tuesday—General Committee on Poor, City Hall, at 5 P. M.; Thursday—Committee on Grounds and Buildings, at 5 P. M.; Committee on Ordinance, Charter and Reform, at 8 P. M.; Friday—Committee on St. John's Cemetery, at Cemetery Chapel, at 8 P. M.

FOR BETTER ROADS.

Merchants of Salisbury Moving for Improvement of Highways.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

SALISBURY, N. C., February 16.—Through the Salisbury Merchants' Association an effort is being made to secure a large amount of road building in Rowan this year. It is believed that when Representative Walter Murphy's road bill, now before the Legislature, becomes a law a number of townships in Rowan will vote a special road tax for the purpose of improving thoroughfares in the county. The Merchants' Association is also making an effort to get the county commissioners to build a large steel bridge across South Yadkin River, eight miles from Salisbury, for the benefit of citizens in that section.

At Fairmount Church.

The pulpit at the Fairmount Avenue Methodist Church will be occupied this morning by Rev. A. B. Sharpe, of the Methodist Institute, who will present that work.

At night the pastor, Rev. Hugh J. Paylor, will preach on the subject, "Our Need of Visions."

Mrs. Heller at Home.

Mrs. Max Heller, of Philadelphia, who is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Henry Heller, in West Grace Street, will be at home to her friends to-day.

DOCTOR GOES HATLESS TO RESTORE HIS HAIR

Prominent Baltimore Physician

Faces Wintry Blazes Without Any Headgear.

BALTIMORE, MD., February 16.—Dr. Thomas L. Shearer, one of Baltimore's leading physicians, has introduced an innovation in Baltimore that has not yet become general, but which may grow in favor when the cold blasts of winter give way to the balmy days of spring. He pays his professional calls and makes his social visits without headgear, and is referred to as "the hatless man."

"I have been going without a hat since last summer," he said, "for the simple reason that I was losing my hair, and I thought it better to expose my head to fresh air. I am going to prepare a statement giving my reasons for not wearing a hat."

Miller & Rhoads

Spring Showing of New Woolen and Silk Dress Fabrics

Together with Laces, Trimmings, Linings, Buttons, &c.

An Exhibit and Sale of Special Interest to Every Woman in Richmond.

¶Six weeks, and then Easter. This means that the materials and trimmings for your new gown must be selected at once. ¶We have never had as charming a collection of dress fabrics and dress accessories as we have this Spring. ¶Sturdy, practical fabrics for street and day wear and soft, beautiful weaves and colors for evening. ¶Dressmakers will be especially charmed with the early showing of Spring stuffs, as it will enable them to see what the fashion centres of Europe and America are offering for the season's wear. ¶Novelties are here that are shown nowhere else in Richmond, guaranteeing you a practically exclusive gown—but, being novelties, they will of course be among the very early sellers. ¶Come to-morrow if you wish to be sure of an unlimited choice from our new goods.

Some Fashion Favorites in Woolen Dress Goods

Imported Plaid Suitings, \$1.50 yd.	All-Wool Voile, 39c yd. 36 inches wide, in black, cream and navy.	All-Wool Albatross, 39c yd.
German Novelty Suitings, \$1.25 to \$2 yd.	Gray Worsted Suitings, 48c yd. 45 inches wide; mixtures, stripes and plaids.	Henley Panama Suitings, 69c yd. 54 inches wide, in a beautiful shade of light gray and cadet; a regular \$1 value.
Light Colored Suitings, \$1 yd. In the new check stripes and plaids, on white and tinted grounds.	Imported Voiles, 75c, \$1 and \$1.25 yd. 40 to 44 inches wide, in black and colors.	\$1.25 Silk and Wool Suitings for 69c yd. Such as Voile, Nions, Berege Tissues and Checked Marquisettes, in a splendid assortment of the most fashionable shades, such as tans, gray, pearl, brown, navy, green, reseda, as well as the more delicate evening shades.
Vigereaux Batiste, 75c yd. In tans, grays, blues and greens.	Marquisette Suitings, \$1.50 yd. 45 inches wide, in plain and self-colored plaids.	
Navy Blue Foulle Cloth, 59c yd.	Striped and Plaid Voiles, Embroidered Striped Voiles, Nions, Marquisettes and Wool Grenadines, \$1.25 to \$3 per yard. Black and colors.	
75c Crepe de Paris, 59c yd. 40 inches wide, all pure worsted, in a full line of street and evening shades.		

Complete Assortment of New Silks.

Some of the Weaves We Name Below.

Eolienne de Luxe, French Eolienne, Chiffon de Soie, } 39c yd	Shantung Pongees, 75c to \$1.35 yd.	Windham Black Dress Silks. We are Richmond's selling agents for these Celebrated Black Silks, every yard of which we guarantee. Black Taffetas, Peau de Cygne, Peau de Soie, Messaline, Louisine, Rhadame and Falles.
Satin Striped Chiffons, } \$1 yd	Colored Japanese Silks, 39c and 50c yd.	Novelty Silks, 75c to \$1.50 yd. In the newest and most fashionable designs and colorings.
Calcium Silks, In beautiful evening shades.	Taffeta Silks, 59c yd. Good wearing quality, desirable for all dress purposes. All colors to match the New Dress Goods.	Novelty Satin Stripe Taffetas, 89c yd
Cream Japanese Silks, 25c to \$1.25 yd. The kinds that wash.	Striped Taffetas and Checked Louisines, 59c yd. Choicest new season colorings in light and medium effects.	New Block Plaid Taffetas, \$1 yd.
All-Silk Crepe de Chines, 59c to \$1.50 yd.	26-Inch Black Taffetas, 75c yd.	
Crepe de Chines, 29c yd. 27 inches wide; very lustrous, in black, cream, white, light blue, violet, tan, gray, navy, brown, reseda, pink and cardinal.		

Women's New Tailored Suits: Inexpensive and Stylish

Styles that in most cases are suitable for misses and women. Suits that don't look as if they'd been turned out by the hundreds (they haven't, either). Individuality is plainly evident in each of them.

\$10.50 for Misses' Suits, in fancy stripes of gray and white, and tan and white. The coat is an Eton, lined with good satin. The sleeves are short, and the collar, cuffs and front of the coat, trimmed with silk braid over taffeta silk. Two large plaids over the shoulder and down the front and back. The skirt is plaited, and stitched over the hips, sizes 14 to 18. A mighty pretty suit \$16.50

Very Handsome Suits for women at \$21.50 in a light weight, light gray Panama. Eton coat, lined with taffeta; stitched plaids around the collar; trimmed with taffeta and fancy silk trimmings and buttons; plaited back. The skirt is plaited and stitched to below the hips, all sizes \$21.50

Strikingly Handsome Suits for misses and women in a lightweight Plaid Panama, in tan and light gray.

Eton jacket, lined throughout with white taffeta. The collar and front trimmed with taffeta and silk braid; plaids over shoulders, front and back, and piped with taffeta. Box-plaited skirt, stitched to below the hips. \$24.50

Strictly Plain Tailored Suits of Shadow Check Panama; tight-fitting 26-inch coat, lined with taffeta; vestee of striped silk around the collar; plaited skirt, stitched below the hips with two folds running around the skirt below the knee. New and stylish. Two shades of gray and brown. Misses' and women's sizes \$28.50

One of the Handsomest Suits in the store is a Chiffon Panama, in plain colors of black and blue. Eton coat, lined with taffeta; short sleeves, straps over the shoulders, front and back piped with black taffeta; collar trimmed with taffeta silk and fancy silk braid; plaited skirt stitched to below knee \$29.50

\$7.50 to \$12.50 Cloth Skirts, \$6.98

Medium-weight cloth, in plaids and stripes of light and dark brown, dark wine, gray and dark blue; all lengths and various styles.

A large collection of Skirts that have been retailing from \$7.50 to \$12.50 to be closed out at \$6.98 each. All high-grade garments.

Wedding and Anniversary Presents of Silver and Cut Glass

An expert judge of Silverware, examining our goods last week, was wondering first of all where we got our beautiful designs in such heavy plate, and after we secured them, how we managed to sell the articles so much lower than other stores. New designs in both silver and cut glass—prettiest patterns in town.

Among the heavy quadruple plates articles are—Syrup Pitcher and Plate, \$1.00. Fern Dish, \$2. Fruit Stand, \$2.00. Soparito Coffee Pot, \$3. Cake Bowl, \$3.25. Soup Tureen, \$4.50. Tea Set, 4 pieces, plain burnished, \$5.80. Baking Dish, extra heavy, \$5. Fruit Bowl, new oblong shape,illy design, \$7.50.

New Designs in Cut Glass. Olive Dish, with 2 handles, \$3. 8-inch Bowl, \$5. 9-inch Bowl, \$7. Covered Comport, \$10.98.

Free Lessons Daily in Embroidery Work

We have a first-class teacher in the art needlework department who is giving daily instruction between 10 A. M. and 1 P. M. and 2:30 P. M. and 5 P. M.

White Bed Quilts

\$1 \$1.50 \$2
Worth Worth Worth
\$1.25 \$2 \$2.50

Reason why is this—Every thing in the cotton line has jumped upward in price since we ordered these quilts.

The \$1 Quilts are white crochet in Marcellines patterns; 78x90 inches.

The \$1.50 Quilts are extra heavy crochet; 80x90 inches.

The \$2 kind are Satin Quilts; 70x88 inches.

New Irish DIMITIES: Our Own Importation, 25c yd

Fine India Dimity, in checks and plaids. The Irish designer and printer was in love with his work, or he could never have turned out such beautiful printings as we have to show you.

Pansies, Violets, Forget-Me-Nots and Roses—You can almost catch the perfume the imitation is so real, 25c yard.

Dotted and Figured White Swiss, 12 1/2 yd

1,200 yards of it in small pin dots and neat figures. A regular 17c grade that we cleaned up from a jobber under price. Fine white, sheer fabric, 12 1/2-2c yard.

White Check Nainsooks, 10c--12 1/2c yd

By far the best values to be had at the prices to-day—better, in fact, than we'll be able to get again, owing to the great advance in prices at the mills. Dozen different size checks and plaids.

Special Sale of Lace Curtains Begins To-morrow

180 pairs in the assortment—2 to 6 pairs of each number.

That's the reason we're closing the Curtains out at a sacrifice—only a few of each kind, and the season is drawing to a close.

Irish Point, Marie Antoinette, Tambour, Renaissance, Nottingham and Bobbinet Curtains—all fresh and clean.

\$2.50 Bobbinet Curtains now \$5 Irish Point Curtains now \$3.50 Irish Point Curtains now

\$1.50 Pair. \$2 Nottingham Curtains now \$1.50 Pair. \$12.75 Marie Antoinette Curtains now \$10

\$3 \$1.50 Pair.

Shetland and Saxony Wool Half Price

(Art Needlework Department.)

We have a few broken lots of wool that we'll close out at a little under half price.

Shetland Wool, in all colors, was 21c skein; now 10c skein. Saxony two-fold wool, in red, lavender and green, was 17c skein; now 8c skein.

BUY YOUR Shoes

From the Store That Leads.

Up-to-minute styles. Low price, because we are on the wrong side of Broad Street.

A world of tan. The newest, smartest styles.

Everything in

Ladies' Tan Pumps,

Ladies' Tan Gibson

Ties,

Ladies' Tan Low-Button

Oxfords.

Ladies' Dark Tan, Vici

Bluchers, Oxfords,

Brown Suede, Gibson

Ties, Tan Blucher

Shoes.

Girl's Tan Blucher

and Button Shoes, Children's Tan Blucher

and Button Shoes—made especially for us.

Leather guaranteed. Styles the newest. Every pair easy-wearing. Come, see; get our prices.

Albert Stein,

428 E. Broad St., Corner Fifth.

The Wide-a-Wake Shoe Store.